Statement

Details of casualties due to Pak firing in Siachen Glacier/LOC/IB in J&K: January to October 1997

Sector	*Army*		*BSF*		*Civil*	
	K	*W*	*K*	*W*	*K*	*W*
Siachen Glacier	*02*	*25*	—	—	—	—
LOC	*12*	*59*	—	*4*	*27*	*44*
IB	*2*	*11*	*2*	*8*	*8*	*20*
Total	**16**	**95**	**2**	**12**	**35**	**64**

K :Killed
W :Wounded

Involvement of Cops-customs Officials in Smuggling

*18. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Indian Express dated 8th September, 1997 under the heading "Cops, Customs involved in smuggling"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken to unearth the racket at the airport?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report furnished by Delhi Police, a vigilance inquiry was conducted into the allegation made by the complainant police official (referred to in the news-item) that the police officers posted at the airport indulged in smuggling activity but the complainant did not join the inquiry despite six summons having been issued to him. It has further been reported that the said police official was in the habit of levelling false allegations against his superior officers and that he has since been dismissed from service on the grounds of misbehaviour and insubordination.

Service Tax on Private Bus Operators

*19. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Tour Operators' within the meaning of the Motor Vehicles Act and the private bus operators presently plying buses on thousands of routes are the same or they are juridically different;

(b) if so, the position of the levy of the service tax vis-a-vis the tour operators and the private bus operators;

(c) whether this matter was discussed with the representatives of the bus operators recently and some clarification was issued; and

(d) what steps are being taken to rationalise these juridical difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The meaning of the 'Tour Operator' and the private bus operators are juridically different within the ambit of the Motor vehicles Act, 1988.

(b) Service tax is not payable by all vehicles which carry passengers but, is only in respect of services rendered by tour operators who holds a tourist permit under the rules made under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(c) The Maharashtra Rajya Truck Tempo Bus Vahatuk Mahasangh (MRTTBVM), Mumbai have demanded withdrawl of service tax on Tour Operators. It has been represented by them that this service tax is applicable to all kinds of vehicles carrying any kind of passenger and that majority of the persons engaged in this service will not be able to register, collect and pay service tax as they are mostly illiterate. They have not made any suggestion.